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## **Ohio EPA Awards \$5,000 Environmental Education Mini Grant To City of Dayton for Boonshoft Exhibit**

Ohio EPA has awarded the city of Dayton a \$5,000 environmental education mini grant to develop a permanent exhibit for visitors to learn about the water cycle at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery. Eleven projects throughout the state were funded for \$50,000.

The city of Dayton, with other regional collaborators, has committed to develop a permanent public exhibit to encourage learning about water, the water cycle and individual responsibility for conserving and protecting the rivers, watersheds and aquifers of the Miami Valley. The exhibit will be installed at the Boonshoft Museum of Discovery in Dayton. More than 126,000 children visit the museum annually. The grant funds will support an interactive station within the exhibit that will allow visitors to manipulate plumbing fixtures to illustrate how everyday behaviors are reflected in the water cycle and how contaminants affect ground water and surface water.

The Ohio Environmental Education Fund gives out approximately \$1 million each year for environmental education projects targeting kindergarten through university students, the general public, and the regulated community. General grants are given for projects lasting up to 30 months and costing up to \$50,000.

Mini grants are available for projects lasting up to 12 months and costing between \$500 and \$5,000. Proposals for classroom projects, conference speakers, and other activities that are eligible under the general grant program are eligible under the mini-grant program, but the application process is streamlined. Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education reserves up to \$50,000 each grant round to fund projects submitted under this program. Just like the general grant program, there are two mini-grant rounds each year, with the next application deadline on July 15, 2011. An electronic letter of intent to apply is due by July 8.

For more information, contact Ohio EPA's Office of Environmental Education at (614) 644-2873. Staff is available to assist potential grant applicants who contact the office before the submission deadline. Information also is available online.

